

ROCKLAND FINANCE COMMITTEE
ROCKLAND TOWN HALL
ROCKLAND, MA 02370

September 9, 2009

In attendance at the September 9, 2009 Finance Committee Meeting were Rachel Gear, Ian Curran, Bill Allen, Dolores Baronas, Joe Gambon, Bob MacDonald, Caryn Stevens, Rich Penney, John Ellard and Paula Ferguson

John Ellard brought the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the August 12, 2009 meeting by Bill Allen, seconded by Rich Penney. A unanimous vote was taken.

Town Accountant, Eric Hart, made up binders for all the new members complete with information about cherry sheet, Proposition 2 ½ calculations, and explanations of terms and responsibilities of the Finance Committee. Mr. Hart took the time to explain and answer all questions regarding procurements and 9C cuts. He also explained about budgets and how a large percentage is made up of salaries based on contract negotiations. It was a very educational meeting and we appreciated him taking the time to answer all questions that our committee had. He also pointed out that all budgets were due on October 8th from the department heads. He did request support on his upcoming article for additional funding for him to have increased staffing hours in his department due to the fact that he is getting behind with the assessor being out. No vote was taken as it is not officially an article until the warrant comes out.

With regard to filling of liaisons with the vacancy of Larry Ryan, a motion was made by Rich Penney and seconded by Bill Allen to fill the slots left by Mr. Ryan with John Ellard. A unanimous vote was taken.

Examples of questions to be asked of department heads by their liaison is the total of personal costs, planned retirements, number of employees who receive over-time and any changes coming up that will effect the budget.

With regards to the new Middle School, the cost estimates and drawings are due September 11 for a vote by September 30 by MSBA. There will be a fund raiser for the debt exclusion over-ride on October 16 from 7:00 to 11:00 at the Abington VFW.

Our next meeting is October 14, 2009 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the lower conference hall of the Town Hall.

A motion was made by Joe Gambon to adjourn and seconded by Bill Allen. A unanimous vote was taken. The meeting ended at 8:17 p.m.

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Total of the reserve fund is \$35,000

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Ferguson
Secretary
Rockland Finance Committee